allotted 3 acres of land in 2000 for construction of Regional Passport Office in Bangalore;

(b) if so, why has the Minister of External Affairs failed to utilize the land, and the reasons for the delay in constructing the Regional Passport Office building in Bangalore;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General has found a loss of Rs. 36.54 lakhs incurred yearly by RPO in Bangalore for functioning in a rented building; and

(d) when would the building be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The construction of the Regional Passport Office building has commenced in February 2005. The delay in implementing the project was mainly due to the time taken for obtaining necessary clearance from local authorities and financial approval from competent authorities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The construction of the building is expected to be completed by March, 2007.

Indian workers in Afghanistan

3527. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any concrete steps for the safety and security of Indian workers in Afghanistan in view of recent kidnapping and killing of two Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indians working in Afghanistan at present;

(d) whether Government propose to pull out workers in view of threat to their life in that country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes.

(b) Government of India is in close touch with the Government of Afghanistan to share our concerns on such incidents and to ensure full security for Indians working in Afghanistan. Asecurity advisory was issued by the Embassy of India, Kabul to all Indians and their companies working in Afghanistan soon after the killing of the BRO official in November 2005. Additional ITBP personnel have been deployed at the BRO's road project locations. Subsequently, the Embassy has held meetings with representatives of Indian companies to emphasise the need for observing security precautions strictly. All Indians working in Afghanistan are urged to register themselves with the Embassy of India, Kabul. Government of Afghanistan has deployed local police guards at the sites of Indian projects in Afghanistan. In addition, as and when required, additional security forces are provided for Indian nationals. In India, Government regularly reviews the security arrangements with concerned Ministries and agencies to ensure the safety of all Indian national in Afghanistan.

(c) There are approximately 2000 Indian nationals working in Afghanistan at present.

(d) to (f) The Government and people of India will never bow to acts of terrorism and will continue their fraternal assistance to the people of Afghanistan in their endeavours to bring peace, stability and economic recovery to their country ravaged by years of conflict.

Foreign visit of Prime Minister

3528. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
DR. MAM. RAMASWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had recently visited Germany and other countries;

(b) if so, the bilateral and multilateral issues that figured during the visit to each country and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements signed during the visit; and